



**Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter**  
**Meeting Agenda for August 13, 2015**  
**Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**

**I. Officer and Committee Reports**

- A. President – Bruce Neville –
- B. Vice President - Bruce Neville –
- C. Secretary- Amanda Schwede - Sign in; approval of July 2015 meeting minutes
- D. Treasurer- Amanda Chau –
- E. Committees
  - 1. Outreach – Olivia Ash, Chair –
  - 2. Membership – Betty Vermeire, Chair – submit your July 2015 hours. The second quarter report was sent to the State Office in July. In the second quarter, 768.25 Volunteer Service and 67.0 Advanced Training hours were reported. Year-to-Date hours as reported by members are 1627.25 Volunteer Service and 258.0 Advanced Training. So far this year, two members of the Class of 2014 have certified, John Cupps and Terri Sandvik. Seven members have recertified: Jim Anding, Kitty Anding, Mike Conner, Katharine Cupps, Rick Laughlin, Sarah Laughlin, and Betty Vermeire. Four members are transferring to other chapters: Rick and Sarah Laughlin to South Texas Chapter, Barbara Pritchard to Capital Area Chapter, and Joyce Conner to El Camino Real Chapter. We must now submit signed time sheets to the State Office for audit on a quarterly basis, instead of just yearly. If I do not have yours with me tonight (or you were not here), I will mail them to you to sign with a SASE. Please return them ASAP. New Member Training: I have received three applications and three more are promised. Do we want to start a Mentor Program with the Training Class? The description and Guidelines are in Appendix II of the revised Chapter Management and Operations Protocols. Note that the guidelines state that "Mentors should develop a lasting relationship with their assigned new Members that continues following the training class...." and that "... a mentor's responsibility to his/her trainee never expires.". Thus, this is intended to be a serious time commitment.
  - 3. Advanced Training – Laura Biddle, Chair – Reminder for members to check the BVTMN AT calendar for upcoming events. After an initial email about an event is sent out, it is added to the calendar for members to reference. The new TMN Chapter Management and Operations Protocols have changed some of the items that are pre-approved for AT credit; specifically, on-line based training will only be accepted for a maximum of 4 hours of the required 8 hours of AT hours. Educational TV shows, videos, DVDs, may not be approved. There are other details that need to be discussed. These changes are not currently reflected on the BVTMN website, which needs to be updated. AT Committee members also need to be updated on the member website.
  - 4. Volunteer Services – Melissa Brown, Chair – The BVTMN webpage for volunteer committee needs updating: in particular on guidelines for reporting hours. Also, pre-approved projects need to be updated to show what is add The Lost Ladybug project and Hummingbirds at

Home and to eliminate Box Turtle Survey and Black Tailed Prairie Dog Watch and to show Monarch Watch has become Monarch Larva Monitoring.

5. Host/Social – Olivia Ash (temp), Chair –
6. Historian – TBD, Chair –
7. Web – Mike Conner, Chair –
8. Program – Bruce Neville, Chair – August: What's That on the Bottom of My Shoe, or, A Selection of Common Insects of Our Area, by Bruce Neville; September: not committed; October: not committed; November: Native Bees, Michael Warriner; December: Holiday Party. I have feelers out for September and October. Marsha May is interested in giving her talk on Frog Calls, if we can work out dates.
9. New Member Training – Dwight Bohlmeier, Chair –

## **II. Old Business**

A.

## **III. New Business**

- A. Bruce Neville - Michelle Haggerty at the State Office recently sent the Chapter Presidents a list of "summer reminders." Among them was a link to a document called "Chapter Management and Operating Protocols." In reading that, I discovered that we are out of compliance with State guidelines in several areas, involving Volunteer, Advanced Training, and Program activities, at a minimum. I have attached the document, or you can find at the TMN State website under "Chapter Documents." I also received an email from the State Office about the new curriculum, which is not ready yet, but which contained the attached Basic Training Guide, which implies that our New Member Training is also seriously out of compliance. I have not heard of a chapter being audited by the State Office, but I am concerned that we might not survive such an audit, if they were to conduct one, or that we might be put on serious probation if they did. I would like each of the Committee Chairs to review the relevant sections of these documents so that we can work toward coming into better compliance with the State guidelines.
- B. Bruce Neville - As we adopted new Bylaws this year to match the mandated State wording, we need to review and revise the Chapter Operating Handbook, as well. I haven't had a chance to look at that again, but we'll need to work on that over the fall.
  1. One of the things I'd like to revise in the Operating Handbook is the timing of the election of officers. There is a President's Breakfast at the state meeting in October. Those who have attended have found it extremely useful and have wished they had received the information more than two months before the end of their term. I would like to see us at least have the incoming President elected so that they can attend the state meeting and that breakfast, even if their term doesn't begin until January. Obviously, we can't do it for 2016, but I'd like to think about how we might adjust the timing for the future.

## **IV. Announcements**

### **Upcoming Programs Dates/Calendar Items**

1. **TMN Summer Meeting Schedule:** (Second Thursdays at 6:30 PM, BVMNH)  
August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December social
2. **Monthly Meeting speakers** (each monthly meeting counts for one hour of AT credit)  
August 13-, September 10-, October 8-, November 12-
3. **Garden project at the City of College Station Community Services bldg** (1207 Texas Avenue.) Join Cheryl Lewis **on a Saturday** that works for you. 571-6448
4. **Statewide Quail Symposium Sept 16-18**, Abilene. (AT approved)
5. **Texas Pollinator PowWow Sept. 19-20** at Schreiner University in Kerrville  
<http://www.texaspollinatorpowwow.org/> (AT approved)

**6. 2015 Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist Training Sept 28-Oct 2, Conroe**  
(AT approved)

**7. Central Texas Nature Fest October 10, 11 am – 5 pm** at Bend of the River  
(located directly off I-35.) <http://txmn.org/centraltexasnaturefest/> (VT approved)

**8. Boonville Days October 10,** Brazos Museum of Natural History.

**9. TMN 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Mtg, Oct 23-25, Horseshoe Bay Resort, Marble Falls**

**10.** AT Comm added [list of pre-approved advanced training activities](#) on BVTMN website. Can also find this list by going to Advanced Training Committee webpage. Note that any AT opportunity that is NOT on this list, must still be submitted for approval.

**11.** Ongoing activity- Public educational presentations on TV, radio, or group settings that members give on the Texas Master Naturalist Program, or on the following naturalist topics: Texas native plants; water conservation & fresh water management in Texas; Texas invasive plants; Texas wildlife; Texas wildlife habitat management; & endangered/threatened species in Texas. Members would receive credit for time actually presenting & for work such as preparation and travel, that supports the presentation. (V approved)

**12. Pre-approved volunteer projects list:** Note that you must report the data to the appropriate website for a collecting activity to count for volunteer time. Collecting and reporting data for iNaturalist is approved for volunteer credit. This includes organizational projects such as the development of a iNaturalist guide to a Texas area. Collecting and reporting eBird data is approved for volunteer credit.